

# Investigating the Effectiveness of Philosophy Education Based on the Wartenberg Approach on Adolescents' Critical Thinking and Caring Thinking

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

Adolescents face obstacles and problems in life and they need to learn various skills, including thinking skills..." – The claim could benefit from citations of recent studies specifically exploring the relevance of thinking skills in adolescent development. Please provide references that substantiate the need for enhancing thinking skills in adolescents today.

"Studies show that current educational programs are not sufficiently effective in fostering thinking..." – The sentence could be strengthened by detailing which studies are being referenced, and specifically how current programs fail. Including more granular details about the inadequacies of these programs would add depth to the argument.

"Mehrnoush Hedayati's Caring Thinking Questionnaire..." – The development and psychometric properties of this questionnaire need further elaboration. Please include more detailed validation procedures, especially in terms of cross-cultural validity, since the tool appears to be localized.

"The experimental group after reading a story from classical Persian literature..." – While the literature chosen is culturally significant, was there any specific reasoning for using these particular texts for fostering critical and caring thinking? Consider justifying the text selection based on its content and alignment with the educational goals.

For each session, there should be a clear articulation of the expected learning outcomes. What specific critical and caring thinking competencies were targeted in each session? Including clear objectives for each session would enhance the clarity and purpose of the intervention.

"One-way and multivariate covariance analysis were used to test the research questions." – Please clarify why these specific statistical methods were chosen. A discussion of why ANCOVA is appropriate for controlling pre-test scores and how it handles assumptions like homogeneity of regression slopes would be valuable for the reader.

In Table 1, the mean values are presented, but a confidence interval or effect size could offer additional insights into the magnitude and variability of the changes observed. Consider including this information for a more comprehensive understanding of the effect.

"The mean scores of critical thinking for children in the philosophy education group were higher..." – The discussion should include a comparison with relevant literature. How do these findings align with or differ from previous studies on critical thinking interventions in similar populations?

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

"Despite extensive research on the effectiveness of philosophy education for children in various fields...there is still a significant research gap regarding the impact of this education on adolescents' critical and caring thinking." – The sentence should include a summary of existing research on the effectiveness of philosophy education on younger children, drawing clear lines of distinction between those studies and the current work focused on adolescents.

"The research was quasi-experimental with a pre-test-post-test design with a control group." – Please clarify why a quasi-experimental design was chosen over a randomized controlled trial (RCT). Address any potential limitations that might arise due to the lack of randomization.

"24 individuals selected through convenience sampling..." – Convenience sampling introduces bias. Please discuss why this method was selected and the implications this might have for generalizing the findings to the wider population of adolescents.

"The original form of this test has 33 questions..." – It would be helpful to include details on the reliability and validity of the Ricketts Critical Thinking Questionnaire in prior studies with a similar adolescent population. Has it been validated for use with Iranian adolescents?

"The philosophy education group had a favorable effect on caring thinking." – The study would benefit from a more nuanced discussion of caring thinking. What specific dimensions of caring thinking were most affected? Was there a differential effect on any of the five subscales of the Caring Thinking Questionnaire?

"No study was found to be entirely consistent with this hypothesis..." – This sentence downplays existing literature too much. A more comprehensive literature review might reveal studies in adjacent fields that support the findings, even if indirectly. Consider broadening the discussion to include more literature from adjacent domains, such as moral development or social-emotional learning.

"Lipman's approach...focuses on self-correction, having reasonable sensitivity to context, and making judgments based on reliable criteria." – A stronger connection between Lipman's theoretical framework and the study's results would be beneficial. Provide specific examples from your findings that align with Lipman's views on critical thinking development.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.

